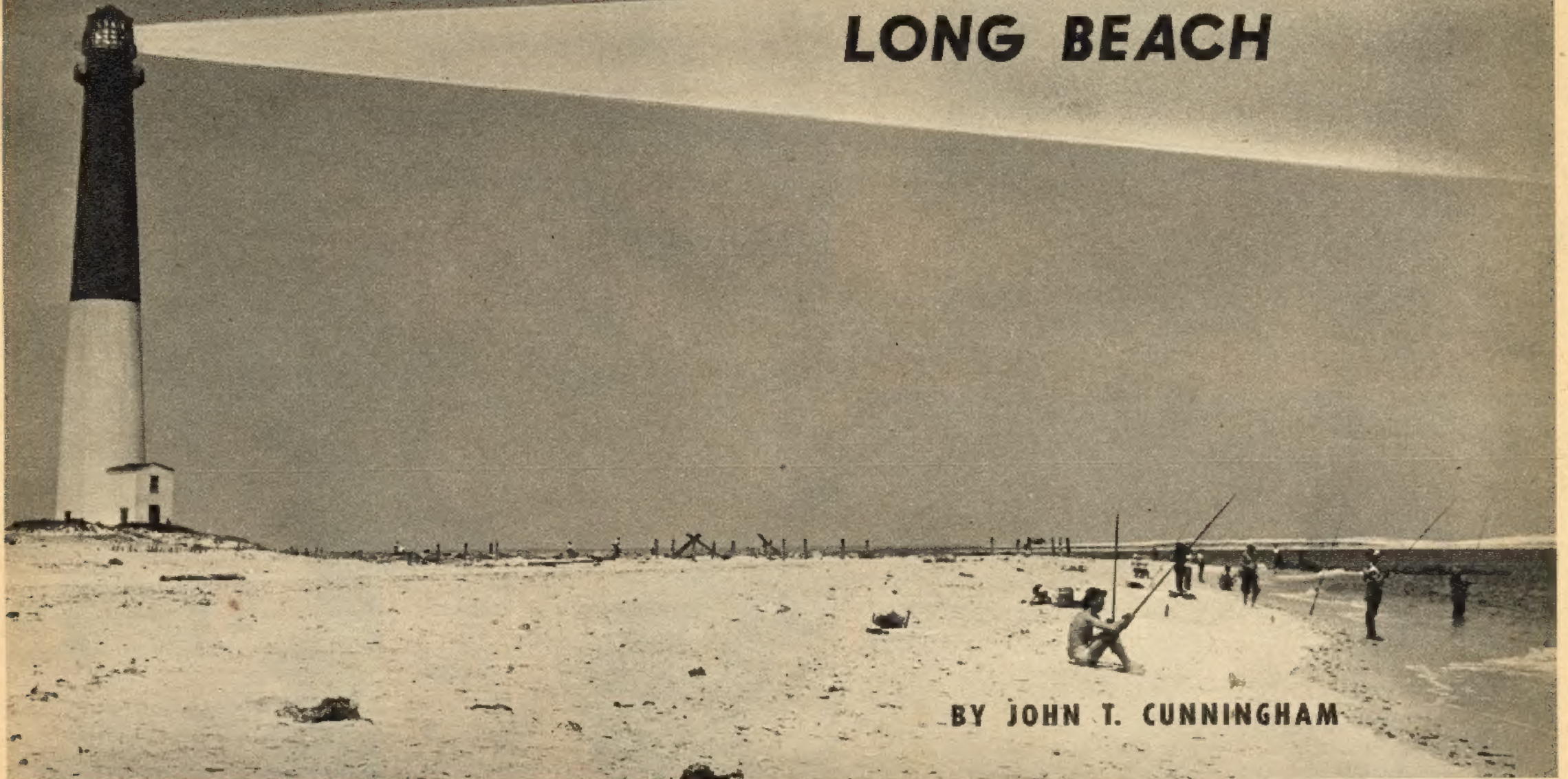


LET'S EXPLORE

LONG BEACH



BY JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

"Old Barney," at northern tip of Long Beach, is one of State's most photographed landmarks. Erected in 1856, the lighthouse has not operated as a guide for shipping since 1927 but the "grand old champion of the tides" has taken light shining toward mainland for Ocean County's 100th anniversary celebration.

ONE of these days some one shuffling along the sands of Long Beach will kick up an old coin and another of the island's oft-repeated treasure hunts will be on. Probably nothing else will be found but many of the searchers will rediscover the other treasures this Ocean County island offers.

It's those other treasures you seek today in visiting this 18-mile strip of sand and cedar "six miles at sea" (as the Long Beach boosters say). The swelling ocean rolling over the fine beaches, the picturesque sand dunes and the sight of the old Barnegat Lighthouse shining again are precious. Riches are to be found, too, in the chest of legends and stories of pirates, whalers and sea-going men of a bygone day. It's even possible that your toe will uncover a Spanish doubloon in the sand—it happens, you know.

Long Beach is reached from North Jersey by Route 4 to Manahawkin, from where a long causeway leads to a traffic circle at Ship Bottom. Let's head north nine miles to Barnegat Lighthouse then retrace our route and continue on to the southern tip of the island.

"Old Barney," as they call the 168-foot high red and white lighthouse, hasn't done much these last 23 years except pose majestically for countless thousands of pictures. He's probably the state's best-known landmark even if he hasn't been a

shining light since the government transferred his ship-warning functions to a lightship in 1927 after 69 years of service. This year a feeble light blinks from "Barney's" head as a symbol of Ocean County's centennial celebration. Even that light is blacked out on the sea side, where once "Barney" cast his beam for 30 miles.

BARNEGAT Coast Guard station nearby is one of two stations remaining of the six which once were strung along the island. Now that ocean vessels stand so far offshore six stations aren't needed but those remaining give comfort to thousands of fishermen who leave Long Beach every week in the Summer. They also assist rescue operations when storms far offshore disable bigger craft.

Once those six stations had years of stress. That was when this stretch of land earned the grim title of "The Graveyard of the Atlantic." Countless sailing vessels went by then, sometimes as many as 200 in a single day. When storms ranged off the dreaded Barnegat shoals helpless ships foundered offshore or grounded on the beach. One researcher estimates that 400 to 500 ships have been wrecked off Long Beach since the first recorded disaster in 1705. Most horrible sea tragedy of all was the breakup of the ship Powhatan in 1854 off Surf City. Every one of the



His sailing days over, Sinbad, Dog 1/c, now lives life of ease as mascot of Coast Guard station (right) at Barnegat. A grizzled vet of 13 years at sea, Sinbad has run of base. Station is one of two serving what once was the Atlantic's "graveyard."



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NEWARK SUNDAY NEWS



Among interesting sights of Long Beach tour are Arts and Science Foundation building (top) and sea-going fishing fleets which dot bay side of the island

311 passengers and 29 crew members perished.

The Coast Guard says it welcomes visitors and these days it includes on its reception committee nationally known Sinbad, Dog 1/c. Sinbad, black and tan and of uncertain breed, is 13 years old and has been assigned permanent shore duty pending retirement. This beer-drinking, ship-jumping, "girl-in-every-port" old sea dog won his fame aboard a Coast Guard cutter in World War II.

Coming south from the station, a modernistic building on the right is the unmistakable home of the new Long Beach Arts and Sciences Foundation, a World War II memorial which plans changing cultural exhibits until Winter comes. Eventually the foundation hopes to make Long Beach a center of arts and sciences for all—

from childhood to old age. Many Philadelphia artists who have long summered in the area lend strength to the movement.

JUST below the Foundation long rows of glass barriers protect flourishing vegetable and flower gardens and make a spectacularly green oasis in the long sweep of white sand. This is in the center of Harvey Cedars, once the hub of a great island whaling industry. Whalers found sturdy timbers for their ships in the Great Swamp then surrounding nearby Surf City.

In Ship Bottom low tide reveals the remains of the steel hull of the Fortuna at the foot of 14th street. The Italian bark, driven ashore in 1910, was one of the island's last great wrecks.

(Continued on Following Page)

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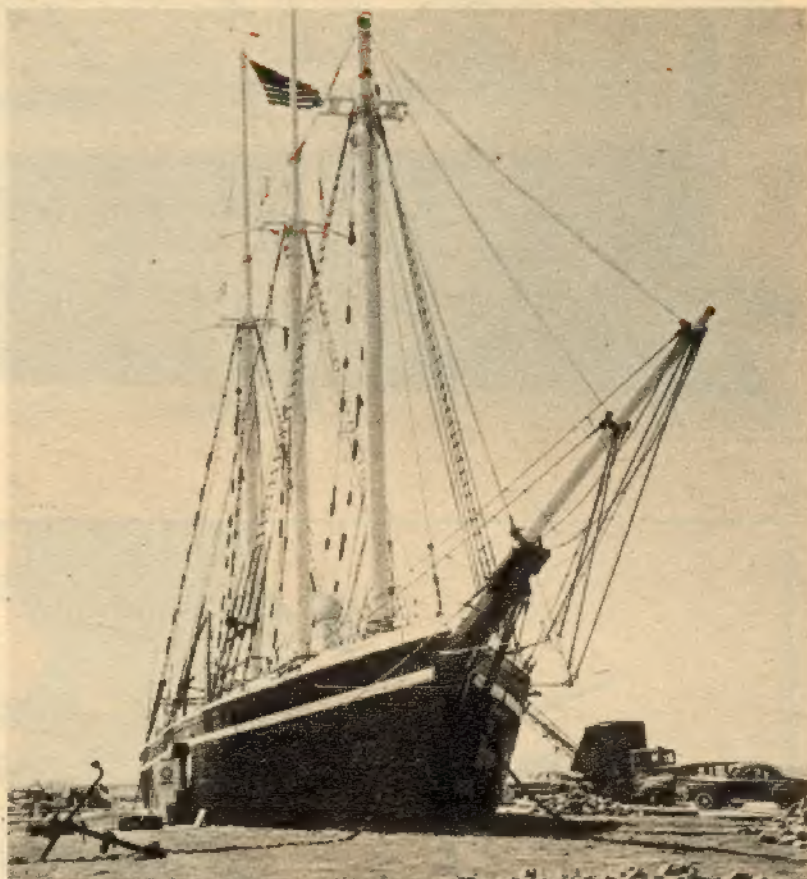
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NEWARK SUNDAY NEWS

LET'S EXPLORE —Long Beach



Land-locked at Beach Haven is schooner Lucy Evelyn now serving as gift shop and museum.

(Cont'd from Preceding Page)

Ship Bottom derived its unique name from a vessel washed ashore in 1817, keel up. Rescuers heard a tapping on the hull and with their axes opened the planks. A beautiful young girl stepped out babbling profuse thanks in a foreign tongue. She sank to her knees and drew the sign of the cross in the sand. A few days later she was taken to New York and was never heard of again (which makes the story both indisputable and unproveable).

The island narrows below Ship Bottom until in some places it is only 400 to 500 feet wide. Little Egg Harbor Bay edges in close and the motorist has the opportunity to see some of the scores of deep-sea fishing boats anchored in the bayside basins. "Egg Harbor" is derived from the Dutch, who called this section "Eyren Haven" or "Harbor of Eggs" from the many birds' nests they found almost 350 years ago.

RIDING south through Beach Haven, the eye is suddenly attracted by a three-masted 160-foot schooner locked in the sand near the bay. It's the Lucy Evelyn spending her remaining days as a gift shop and museum after 30 troubled years at sea. She was built in Maine in 1917 and served in both wars. Two years ago the present owners bought her at auction in New Bedford, Mass., for \$1,550 and floated her to a spot off Long Beach. The Lucy Evelyn rode up the bay in a nor'easter storm which raised the waters enough to keep the ship from running aground. Now she offers a unique opportunity to study a fast-disappearing type of ship.

Beach Haven Library and Museum is also worth a visit. The second-floor museum has many mementoes of old whaling, sailing and vacationing days. Included is a door from the luxury hotel opened 100

years ago by Captain Thomas Bond, the island's most revered pioneer. The names and initials of the "Who's Who" of the time are carved in the door's surface. Captain Bond, a New York watchmaker, became famous as a host and as a leader in early sea rescue work.

The library and museum is only 27 years old but its builders succeeded in giving it an early 19th Century look. Its stone floor came originally from England and more directly from a Philadelphia church torn down to make way for a Delaware River bridge.

From Beach Haven down to the island's southern end fewer homes and cottages are seen. At the far end the island has become mainly a trailer camp. This is Holgate's, or Bond's, where Long Beach's other Coast Guard station is located. This is also where Long Beach's most famous "buried treasure" story is told.

ISLAND lore is replete with tales of looting of ships lured ashore by false lights and stories of pirates using Long Beach as a base are numberless. Few of them have any proof. That's what makes this Bond's story so fascinating—the treasure-finders left behind something tangible.

This is what can be proved: About 75 years ago two strangers rowed ashore at dusk from a sloop anchored a mile offshore. They asked if "the old lighthouse" was still standing, then ostensibly went to bed. In the morning a lookout spied them lifting a chest from a deep hole dug during the night. By the time excited men reached the scene the strangers were far offshore, leaving behind the chest, a rusty cutlass, some ancient Spanish coins and a crumpled yellow map.

Buried treasure? Probably. Long Beach had no publicity men in those days.

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